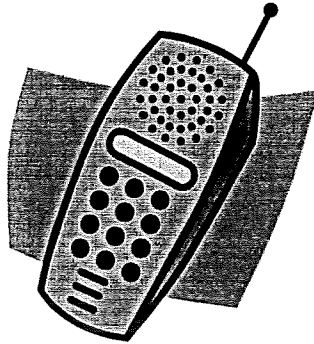


State of Wisconsin

Annex K

Mutual Aid Communications Frequencies



2010 Edition

This state plan for mutual aid communications outlines public safety mutual aid and on scene tactical radio communications frequencies available in Wisconsin. All public safety and governmental agencies are encouraged to implement these frequencies.

Updates in this Edition

As interoperability planning in Wisconsin evolves and matures, a number of changes have been implemented since the last edition of this plan.

A set of new 800 MHz channels designed primarily for on scene tactical use have been added.

Project 25 digital versions of the VTAC channels have been added (VTAC1#DG). These are Wisconsin only channels and not part of the national plan.

Revised national channel nomenclature has been established by the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council for nationwide interoperability channels. Those names are included for cross reference purposes. Radios with large displays can be programmed to include both the state and national names.

The State Interoperability Council has established policy for the narrowbanding of all statewide mutual aid/interoperability channels during the April to November 2011 timeframe.

Agencies should consider to converting their communications systems to narrowband operation in that 2011 timeframe, prior to the December 31, 2012 deadline.

The Mutual Aid Frequency Coordination Group (MFCG) has been established as a committee of the State Interoperability Council to manage the statewide mutual aid/interoperability channel resources. See the Wisconsin Interoperability Initiative website at www.interop.wi.gov for more information on the MFCG and all aspects of public safety communications interoperability in Wisconsin.

Usage

All public safety agencies in Wisconsin are encouraged to implement the statewide common frequencies. In some cases there are local assignments that may conflict with the statewide use plan. It is highly desirable for these situations to be integrated into the state plan. The state frequency coordinator will work with those county and local agencies affected to address these situations. Counties and agencies with additional frequencies are encouraged to implement the statewide plan frequencies and making currently licensed simplex frequencies available for reassignment.

Be sure to identify your agency and unit when using common channels and to clear or signoff when done.

Law Enforcement

In general, each county will have a unique Dispatch repeater channel. Some counties have an alternate Dispatch channel.

Fire/Rescue/EMS

In general, each county will have a unique Dispatch channel, a Paging channel, and a Local simplex channel. Some counties may combine the functions of these channels. A pool of shared public safety on scene tactical channels has been established for fireground communications. Use of frequencies outlined in the state plan will increase the number of tactical channels available and provide for a high degree of interoperability between units at an incident.

Dispatch – a channel for communications between dispatch and field units, also unit to unit communications for longer range if through a repeater

Paging – a channel primarily for transmitting alerting messages to paging receivers

Local – a county specific channel for local administrative and training, usually a simplex frequency

Fireground – a channel for on scene tactical communications

Highway/Local Government

Each county is assigned a county highway department frequency (pair) and a local government frequency for road maintenance and other municipal operations.

STATE FREQUENCY AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

This is a request to operate mobile and/or portable radios under a state license.

Agency: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Contact: _____

Email: _____

Channels/Frequencies Requested:

Number of radios: _____

Purpose/usage/other info:

Submit request by email, fax, or mail to:

Carl Guse
Frequency Coordinator
Wisconsin State Patrol
POB 7912
Madison WI 53707-7912

608-266-2497
608-267-4495 fax
carl.guse@dot.wi.gov

For internal use: Approved on _____ by _____

For the above frequencies, see the NPSPAC Region 45 and 54 plans for more info. The transmit and receive references listed above are for mobile and portable operation, not for base stations.

There are also designated interoperability frequencies in the public safety 700 MHz band that are subject to planning by the State Interoperability Council and Mutual Aid Frequency Coordinating Group. At present, more information is available at the CAPRAD web site: www.caprad.org

Frequency Use Authorization

All users must either hold their own license or be authorized by letter to operate under another qualified licensee's license in order to legally transmit on a frequency. In many cases, local agencies can receive their authorization from the county. To receive authorization to operate under a statewide license, complete and submit the Frequency Authorization Request form. Generally, only mobile and portable radios can be authorized to operate under someone else's license; base stations must be licensed for a specific location.

Updates and Revisions

This document will be updated annually or as needed to reflect changes due to FCC rules, narrowbanding, frequency assignments, etc.

Revision 3.2 prepared February 2010 by:

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Statewide 800 MHz Mutual Aid Channels

Statewide 800 MHz mutual aid / interoperability / tactical channels ("8TACs") have been licensed by the FCC under callsign [REDACTED]. All Wisconsin public safety agencies with 800 MHz radios are encouraged to include these channels. These are the "rebanded" frequencies and they will not be further changed during rebanding processes. As with the VHF mutual aid frequencies, these channels are authorized under the statewide license by letter from the State Patrol Bureau of Communications frequency coordinator.

PRIORITY ORDER FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF VHF CHANNELS

This chart provides a general guide for the priority of implementation of channels in radios that do not have sufficient capacity to include all statewide interoperability channels.

In radios that have 16 channel zones, it is generally suggested that the most used channels be included in the 1st zone, other Priority 1 through 12 channels be included in the 2nd zone and Priority 13 through 24 channels be included in the 3rd zone. This list makes no further suggestion regarding the order in which channels should be placed within radios.